



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 325, May 8, 2026

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section (updated as conditions warrant) and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

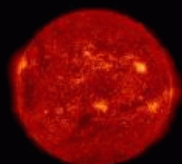
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

09 May 2026 1716 GMT
SFI: 120 SN: 68
A-Index: 12
K-Index: 1
X-Ray: B9.1
304A: 108.4 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 8
Elc Flx: 1690
Aurora: 2/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): 1.5
Solar Wind: 484.5
Geomag Field VR QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
Copyright Paul L. Herrman 2023

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DX News

3B9, RODRIGUES I. Suvarna, VU3OPT, is QRV as **3B9G** until **May 22nd**. Activity is currently focused on CW. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or [VU3OPT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

5X, UGANDA. John, KF5NSR, is currently in Kampala and plans to operate as **5X/KF5NSR** on FT8 unless he receives a Ugandan callsign.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

5Z, KENYA. Massimo, IZØEGB, has returned to Nairobi and uses the callsign **5Z4AB** on 20-10m (SSB). The duration of his stay is not known at present. QSL via [IZØEGA](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

5Z4, KENYA. Paul, MMØZBH is currently active as **5Z4/MMØZBH** from Kenya **until June 15th**. He operates CW, SSB and FT8 and is QRV holiday style while volunteering at a local school. QSL via LoTW and [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0619)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD is again active as **8R1TM** from Guyana **until May 10th**. He operates CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-6 meters and via satellite, from 2300 to 0300 UTC during the week, and "full time" during the weekends. He will also participate in the CQ MM DX Contest (April 18th-19th). QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ, or direct to [PY1SAD](#).

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0410-0515)

9M8, EAST MALAYSIA. 12 ops are going to put Talang-Talang Besar island (OC-165) on the air **during May** with the callsign **9M8T**. See also: <https://cqdx.my/9m8t>. QSL via [9W8ZZK](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

A3, TONGA. Takio, JH3QFL will be active as **A31AA** from Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu Island (OC-049), Tonga on **May 13th-22nd**. He will operate FT8 on 80-6 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [JH3QFL](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0508-0522)

A3, TONGA. Bob, ZL1RS will be active as **A35RS** from Tongatapu (OC-049), Tonga on **May 14th-26th**. This will be a 6m EME DXpedition, using Q65-60A in the "Q65 Pileup" mode. During non-EME times he will be monitoring 50313 kHz on FT8; depending on available luggage space and weight, limited 10m band FT8 operation may also be included. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/A35RS> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [ZL1RS](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0529)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. The Emirates Amateur Radio Society participates in the "Proud of UAE" campaign, the nationwide initiative celebrating the country's progress and identity. Look for **A6ØPE** (individual operators may append a serial number to the special callsign: **A6ØPE/Ø**, **A6ØPE/1**, etc.) to be used **through May 31st**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/A60PE> for the QSL routes.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0529)

CEØZ, JUAN FERNANDEZ. Felipe, XQ7IR, will be active as **3GØZ** from Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005), Juan Fernandez for approximately **three weeks in May**. A side trip to IOTA Group SA-101 is being planned: "there is now a very strong possibility of carrying out a short but highly valuable operation from Alejandro Selkirk Island, with an estimated on-air window of approximately 24 to 36 hours", Felipe says. "This activation will depend entirely on the final logistics costs involved in moving part of my radio equipment to the island, as well as securing enough gasoline to keep the generator running during the operation. Should this operation take place, it will be under the callsign **XRØZ**, which has already been requested and officially authorized by SUBTEL. At this moment, everything is under evaluation and the project remains open, but the chances are real and increasing". Bookmark <https://www.robinsoncrusoe2026.net> for updates.

(The first and so far only operation from SA-101 took place in February 2020 as CBØZ, operated by IT9YRE and K9AJ.)

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0529)

CN, MOROCCO. Pascal, F8NQV will be active as **CN2NQV** from Sidi Rahal Chatai, Morocco from **April 25th to July 11th**. Look for him on or around 7155, 14345, 18140, 21165 and 28575 kHz.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0710)

CU, AZORES. Juerg, HB9BIN, is QRV as **CU2/HB9BIN/P** from San Miguel (EU-003) **until May 10th**. Activity is focused on SOTA, CUFF, and POTA using 10 watts on CW. QSL via [HB9BIN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 30, 2026] (0501-0515)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DR17ØTESLA** by DARC's Ortsverband Mainz (DLØMZ) celebrates the 170th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla from **May 1st until December 31st**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [DK8ZZ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

DU, PHILIPPINES. Peter, VK4CCV, has moved to Pacijan Island (OC-129) and operates as **DU7/VK4CCV** on various HF bands on SSB and digital modes.

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of May 7, 2026:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. KH3	Johnston Island	12. EZ	Turkmenistan
3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. YK	Syria
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. FT/T	Tromelin Island
9. BV9P	Pratas Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. KH4	Midway Island	20. KH1	Baker Howland Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF May 8, 2026] (0508-0529)

EA, SPAIN. The special event stations **AO1EU, AO2EU, AO3EU, AO4EU, AO5EU, AO6EU, AO7EU, AO8EU, and AO9EU** operate around Europe Day (**May 9th**). See also: <https://www.fediea.org/eudota/> QSL via [EA3RKE](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0515)

EW, BELARUS. Special callsign **EV81M** marks the end of World War II in Europe 81 years ago **until May 10th**. QSL via [EW1W](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0515)

F, FRANCE. On March 27, 1899, Guglielmo Marconi achieved the first international wireless transmission, sending Morse code signals between Wimereux (near Boulogne-sur-Mer), France, and the South Foreland Lighthouse in Dover, England. Commemorating this milestone in the history of telecommunications, the special event station **TM8DW** will be active from Wimereux **on April 25th** during the International Marconi Day, and **sporadically until June**. In addition, **GB2DOVER, GB2SFL** and **GB8DW** will be operated by the Dover Amateur Radio Club on the British side of the Channel. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0417-0529)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM1Ø1WARD** by the Réseau des Emetteurs Francais (REF) celebrates World Amateur Radio Day from **April 14th to 20th**. WARD is observed annually on April 18th, the day when the IARU was formed in Paris 101 years ago.

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0410-0524)

FK, NEW CALEDONIA. Herve, F4MER will be active as **FK/F4MER** **until the beginning of August** during his spare time with 100W and a multi band antenna.

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0605)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW, plans to return as **FO/F6BCW** from **May 5th until July 20th** from Tikehau (OC-066), this time with an amplifier and improved antennas. QRV with 100W on 20-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0717)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Ronan, F4LJA, is QRV as **FY/F4LJA** **until June 5th**. Activity is on HF bands primarily using FT8.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0605)

GJ, JERSEY. "BJ", KO7T will be active as **MJ/KO7T** from Jersey (EU-013) on **May 8th-9th**. He will operate CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY on 20-10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, ClubLog and QRZ; paper QSL cards will not be provided.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0508-0515)

HK, COLOMBIA. Lothar, DK8LRF, continues to operate as **HK3JCL** **until May 15th**. QSL via [DK8LRF](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0515)

HK, COLOMBIA. Renato, PY8WW, operates as **HK4/PY8WW** from the Tutumate Islands (SA-093) from **May 9th to 15th** on CW, SSB, FT8, running a solar-powered rig. This IOTA reference was last activated in 2002. QSL direct via [PY8WW](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0515)

HS, THAILAND. Bruce, KØBJ, is QRV as **HSØZLB** until **May 19th**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [KØBJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

I, ITALY. Commemorating the centenary of the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile Transpolar Flight, members of ARI Colli Albani will operate under the special callsign **IØNRG** from **May 12th until July 31st**. The suffix stands for "Norge", the Italian-built airship that achieved the first verified journey to the North Pole (May 11-14, 1926) and completed the first flight across the polar ice cap from Europe to America. A certificate will be available; details will be published on QRZ. QSL via [IØKNQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ, is active as **JG8NQJ/JD1** until **mid-May** during his spare time. Operation is mostly CW and FT8. QSL via [JA8CJY](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 9, 2026] (0410-0515)

K, UNITED STATES. Oleh, **KD7WPJ** will be active from Santa Cruz Island (NA-144) on **May 9th-10th**. He will operate mainly CW with some SSB on various bands. QSL to [KD7WPJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0515)

LZ, BULGARIA. The foundations of Bulgaria's organized amateur radio movement were laid in 1926, when 38 enthusiasts established the Bulgarian Radio Club - a predecessor to today's Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA). Celebrating this centenary, members of the BFRA will be active as **LZ1ØØLZ** on 160-10 meters CW, SSB and digital modes from **May 1st to 31st**. See <https://lzprint.eu/lz100lz-award/> for the certificates.

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0529)

LZ, BULGARIA. Bulgarian members of the High Speed Club (HSC) celebrate the 75th anniversary with the callsign **LZ75HSC** throughout **2026**. QSL via [LZ2JE](#).

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

ON, BELGIUM. Special callsign **OT26EPIC** by the Antwerp Port Contest Club (ON8APC) promotes this year's edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. Look for activity from **April 25th to May 25th** (the actual day of the race). QSL via [ON8JJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0424-0529)

OX, GREENLAND. Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active again in his spare time as **OX3LX** from Aasiaat Island (NA-134) on **May 12th-22nd**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or [OZØJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0522)

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Robin Xu, BG5DON, has returned to Port Moresby and spends time on the air as **P29XZ** during his spare time. QRV on 20-10m (FT8). The duration of his stay is not known. At present all QSL requests will be handled via his e-mail: bitclub@163.com.

-[DXNL # 2507 April 22, 2026] (0424-0515)

SØ, WESTERN SAHARA. Naama, SØ1A, and Azman, SØ1AH, are QRV as **SØ9S** until the end of **May** to mark the 50th anniversary of Western Sahara. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0529)

SP, POLAND. Artur, SP3LPR, celebrating the High Speed Club (HSC), will use special callsign **3Z75HSC** until the end of **2026**.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

SV, GREECE. Celebrating "243 Years of Human Flight", the special callsign **SX1FLY** honors the Montgolfier brothers, who achieved the world's first free, manned hot air balloon flight in 1783. Look for activity on all bands and modes from **May 1st to May 31st**. A certificate will be available; details on <https://www.qrz.com/db/SX1FLY>. Paper QSLs will not be provided, but QSOs will be uploaded to

eQSL, LoTW and other electronic resources.

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0529)

SV, GREECE. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special call sign **SZ4ØA** until May 31st to celebrate forty years of continuous presence, service, and contribution to amateur radio. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via [ON3UN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0529)

T31, C. KIRIBATI. Dom, 3D2USU is QRV as **T31TTT** until May 12th. Activity includes CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL via LoTW only by request on ClubLog.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0515)

TF, ICELAND. Rikk, WE9G is QRV as **TF/WE9G** from Borg (EU-021) from May 10th to May 19th.

Activity is on various bands using primarily FT modes with limited CW and SSB. QSL direct via [WE9G](#) or via TF/WE9G for [ClubLog's QQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0522)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Joao, CR7BNW, is active as **TL8BNW** until June. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. For QSL info, see [TL8BNW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 9, 2026] (0410-0529)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Roger, EI8KN, is QRV as **V49B** from Basseterre from May 13th to May 21st.

Activity is holiday-style on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW or direct to [EI8KN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0522)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Markus, WW6W, will be QRV as **V4/WW6W** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from April 28th to June 1st. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via [WW6W](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0529)

VE, CANADA. Special event stations **VB3COPS** and **VB3EMS** will be active during the National Police Week (May 10th-16th) and the National Emergency Medical Services Week (May 17th-23rd), respectively. Activity will be on 80-10 meters SSB, and maybe digital. QSLs via eQSL, or direct to [VE3KGK](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0522)

VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) IS. Mark, VK6BSA, and Deena, VK6DEE, are QRV as **VK9BSA** and **VK9DEE** during free time until late May. Activity is on most bands using an FTDX-10. QSL direct with \$5.00 US International Money Order or PayPal to [VK6BSA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0529)

VK9N, NORFOLK I. Dom, VK2HJ, is regularly QRV as **VK9HJ/p** during work assignments. He operates with 100 watts and a vertical antenna on 20 to 10 meters. QSL via qrz.com.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0515)

VP8/H, LU, SOUTH SHETLAND IS. Rafal, SQ4O is a member of the 50th Polish Antarctic Expedition to the Henryk Arctowski Station on King George Island, South Shetland Islands (AN-010). He will be working there from May to October, and in his spare time he will be QRV as **HFØPAS** on the HF bands (SSB and CW) and 6 meters (FT8). QSL route TBA.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0501-0529)

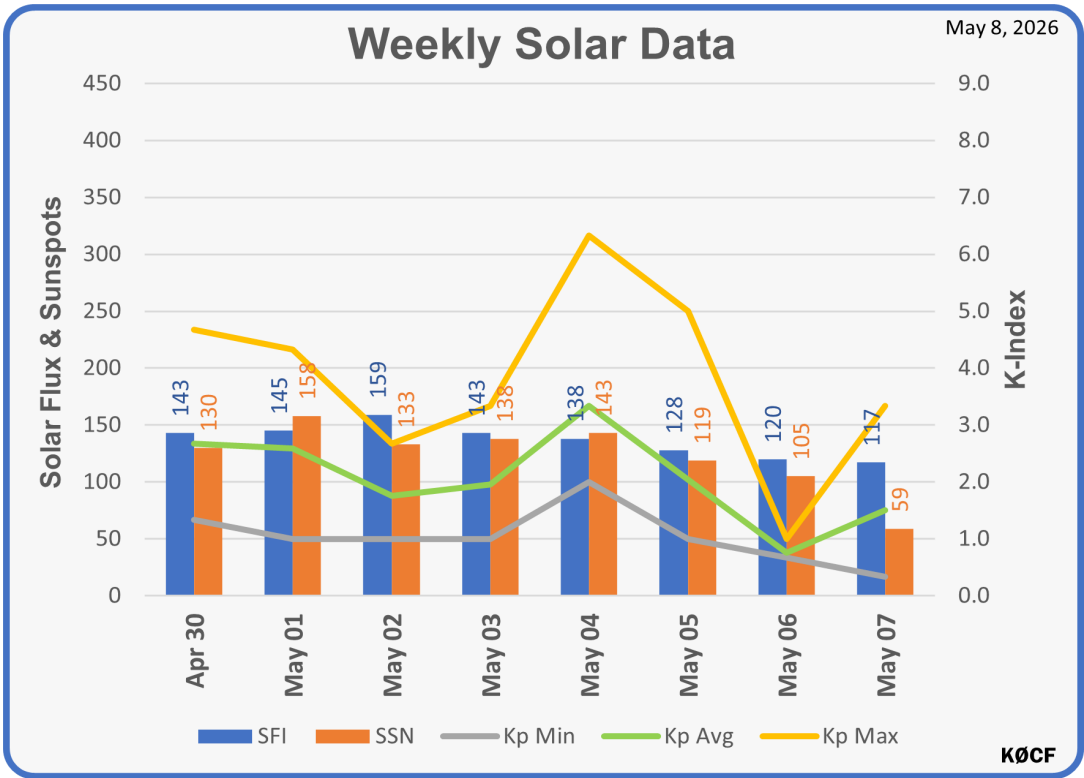
XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO, is QRV as **XT2AW** from Ouagadougou until May 19th. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT modes, as well as the QO-100 satellite. QSL only via [MØOXO's QQRS](#). He requests NO direct QSLs and NO eQSL or email inquiries.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0522)

YB, INDONESIA. Look for **YB1RQX/p**, **YB1RET/p** and **YC1RIK/p** to be active from Dabo (grid OI29) on Singkep Island (OC-107) on May 13th-16th. Main activity will be on QO-100 (SSB and Digital), but they will be on LEO satellites as well.

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0515)

Propagation



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

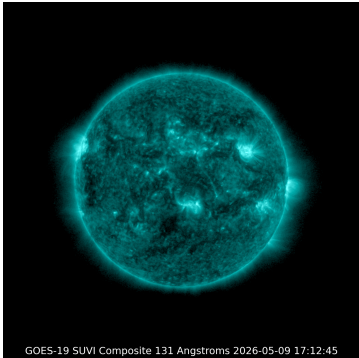
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, April 30th through Thursday, May 7th.

The average solar flux was 136, down 11 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 159 on Saturday, May 2nd, followed by a low of 117 on May 7th.

The average sunspot count was 122, down by 14 from last week, peaking at 158 on Friday, May 1st followed by a weekly low of 59 on May 7th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.8 with a maximum of 6.3 on Monday, May 4th, indicating a moderate geomagnetic storm. The most recent K-index maximum was 3.3 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since May 1st has been quiet with only 2 major flares, the largest of which was an M 2.6 event on Thursday, May 7th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, May 1st through 1443 UTC, May 8th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	May 07	1514	M 2.6
2	May 04	0133	M 1.9

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
May 8	45%	10%	125
May 9	45%	10%	125
May 10	45%	10%	125

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on May 4, 2026).

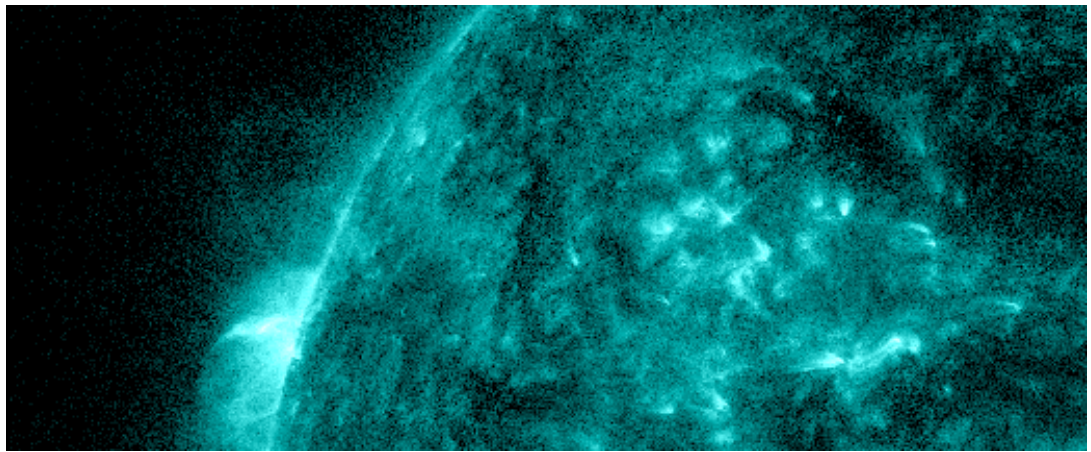
Date	Flux	Kp
May 8	135	4
May 9	130	3
May 10	130	2
May 11	125	2

Date	Flux	Kp
May 12	125	2
May 13	120	2
May 14	115	2
May 15	120	5

Date	Flux	Kp
May 16	120	5
May 17	125	5
May 18	130	4
May 19	130	2

Something Flare-Y This Way Comes

An active sunspot is hiding behind the sun's eastern limb, and it is about to turn toward Earth. A dramatic M2-class solar flare heralded its approach on May 7th:

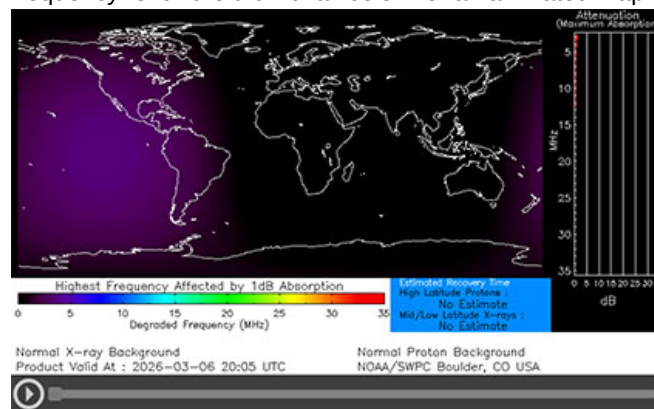


The flare was partially eclipsed by the edge of the sun, so the true intensity was probably much higher than M2. In the past few days, at least 5 CMEs have emerged from this farside active region. Earth could enter the line of fire later this weekend. Stay tuned!

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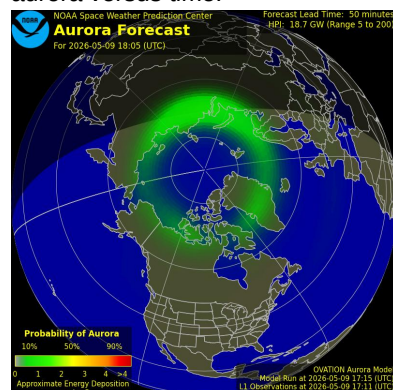
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.
Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.spaceweather.com/>
<https://www.solarham.com/>
<https://dx.gsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	

Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 9	1200Z	May 10	1159Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 16	1200Z	May 17	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 16	1400Z	May 17	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 30	0000Z	May 31	2400Z	Rules
Atlantic Canada QSO Party	Jun 6	1200Z	Jun 7	0200Z	Rules
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 6	1300Z	Jun 7	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 6	1800Z	Jun 7	2400Z	Rules
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 13	1800Z	Jun 15	0300Z	Rules
All Asian DX Contest, CW	Jun 20	0000Z	Jun 21	2400Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 20	1500Z	Jun 21	1500Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 20	1800Z	Jun 20	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 27	1800Z	Jun 28	2100Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	Jul 4	1200Z	Jul 5	1200Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest	Jul 18	1200Z	Jul 19	1200Z	Rules
RSGB IOTA Contest	Jul 25	1200Z	Jul 26	1200Z	Rules
Alabama QSO Party	Jul 25	1500Z	Jul 26	0300Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 1	1800Z	Aug 2	0600Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, CW	Aug 8	0000Z	Aug 9	2359Z	Rules
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 8	1400Z	Aug 9	0400Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))